

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01768 090523Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 CPR-01 L-03 SCS-06 INR-10

SS-15 PM-05 NSC-05 /059 W

-----026870 092112Z /73

R 090449Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2632

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP, AS

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF U.S. CONSULATE BRISBANE

1. WHILE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON OTHER BUSINESS, USA SECTION TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GOA'S DESIRE THAT THE USG CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN BRISBANE. THE REMARKS ABOUT BRISBANE WERE TOTALLY OUT OF CONTEXT OF REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION, AND WERE PURSUED WITH SOME EARNESTNESS.

2. ASKED WHAT PROMPTED THE MENTION OF OUR REPRESENTATION IN BRISBANE, USA SECTION HEAD SAID FOREIGN OFFICE HAD READ WITH CONCERN RECENT GOA STUDY OF CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN AUSTRALIA RECOMMENDING THAT BRISBANE BE DECLARED SUPERFLUOUS AND ITS FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED TO SYDNEY.

3. WE COUNTERED THAT WHILE WE WERE AWARE OF VARIOUS STUDIES OF OUR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN AUSTRALIA, WE KNEW OF NO ACTIVE PROPOSAL THAT AMCONSULATE BRISBANE BE SHUT DOWN, AND DIDN'T THINK ANY CONSIDERATION WAS

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CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO DOING SO. WE DID OBSERVE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR REPRESENTATION WAS A DIRECT FUNCTION OF BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS AND PERCEIVED NEED.

4. USA SECTION MADE NO MENTION OF GOA'S PLANS TO REOPEN ITS CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELES, AND WE DOUBT THAT THEY HAD "RECIPROCITY" IN MIND WHEN THEY MADE THE POINT ABOUT

BRISBANE. OUR REPLY WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT WE WERE SURE  
THEY WOULD BE WELCOME TO ESTABLISH AS MANY CONSULATES  
IN THE U.S. AS THEY COULD GET THEIR PARLIAMENT TO FUND,  
MUCH AS THE NUMBER OF U.S. CONSULATES IN AUSTRALIA IS  
A FUNCTION OF WHAT THE U.S. CONGRESS IS PREPARED TO FUND.

5. BUT THE FACT THAT THE GOA WAS PREPARED TO RAISE THE  
QUESTION OF OUR BRISBANE CONSULATE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL,  
AND IN A WAY WHICH COULD LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEIR  
COMMENTS WERE BOTH DELIBERATE AND PREMEDIATED, SEEMS  
WORTHY OF SPECIAL NOTE.

ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSULATES, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CANBER01768  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014